

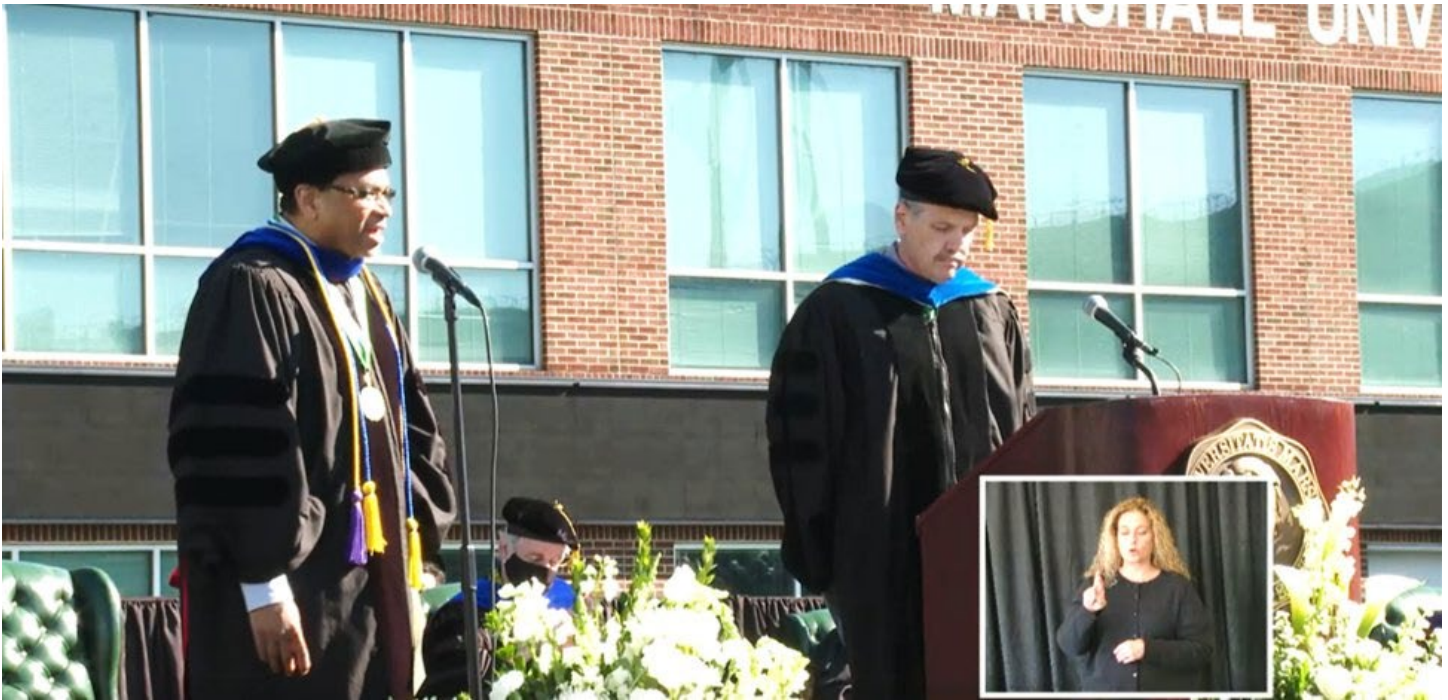


MONDAY MORNING MEMO

from Dean Avi Mukherjee

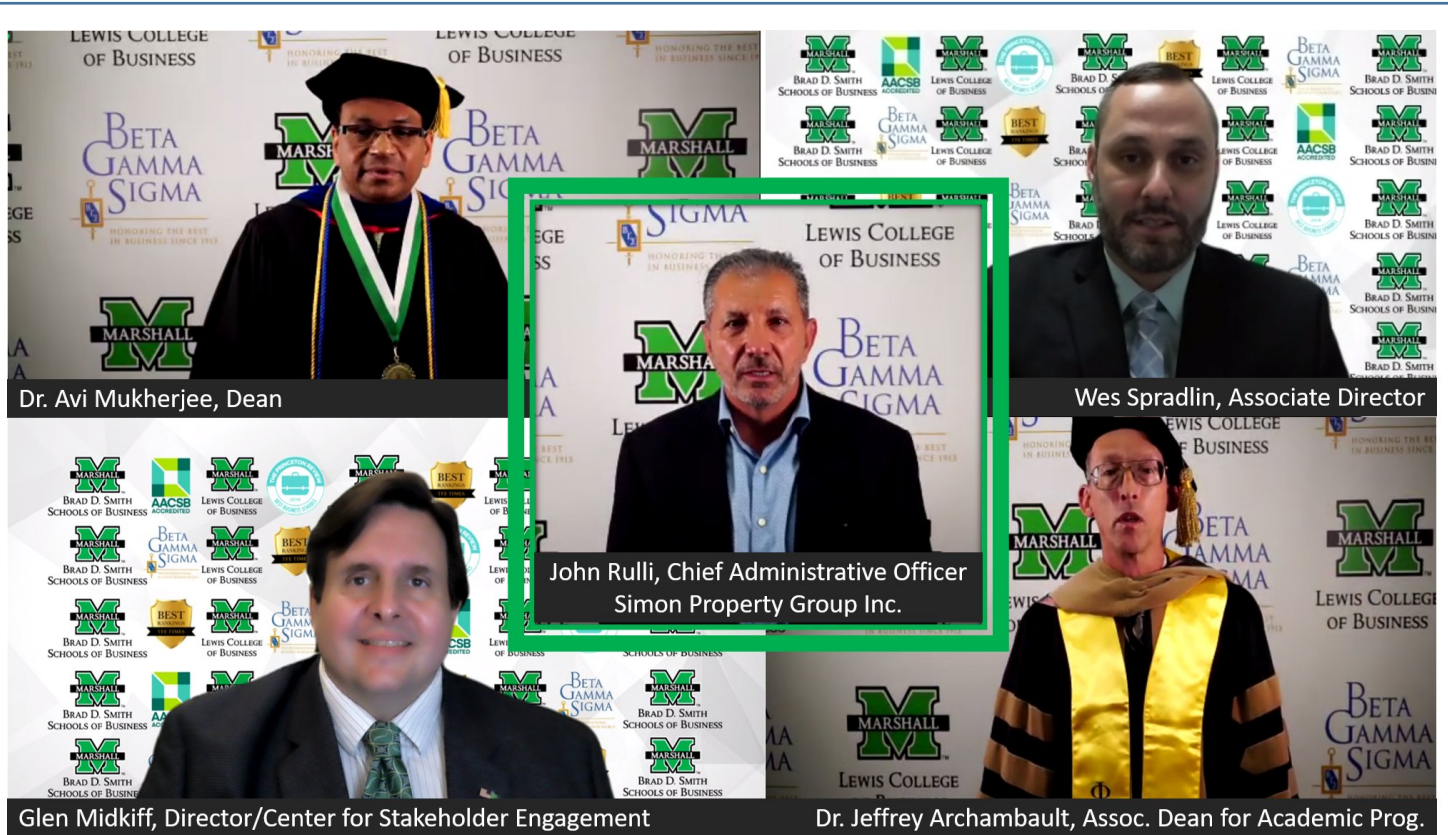
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2021 Commencement and Pre-Commencement Events



Marshall University's 184th Commencement was held on Saturday, May 1, at the Joan C. Edwards Stadium in Huntington, with the presentation of Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees from the Brad D. Smith Schools of Business in the ceremony starting at 9 am. Lieutenant General Anthony Crutchfield, a 1982 graduate of Marshall University, was the Commencement Speaker. 127 students graduated with Bachelor degrees in Business. Professors Jeffrey Archambault, Marie Archambault, Margie McInerney and Nancy Tierney served as Faculty Marshals. Six LCOB faculty members with 25 or more years of service as of May 2021 were recognized in the program: Dennis Emmett (45 years), Margie McInerney (35 years), Daesung Ha (31 years), Ricky Weible (28 years), Charles Braun (27 years), and Elizabeth Alexander (26 years). Also recognized amongst Honored Faculty was Dr. Margie McInerney, Professor of Management, for the Distinguished Service Award 2020-2021.

The video link for the 2021 Spring Commencement is available at: <https://livestream.com/marshallu/events/9645164>



The Brad D. Smith Graduate School of Business Hooding Ceremony was held virtually on Zoom on April 30. 100 graduate students, who have completed their coursework in Spring of 2021, received their Masters degrees:

- MBA – 32 (12 General, 4 Finance, 8 Management, 4 Marketing, 2 Health Care Administration, 1 Supply Chain, 1 HRM)
- MS Health Care Administration – 12
- MS Human Resource Management – 6
- MS Accountancy – 7
- MS Health Informatics – 13
- MS Information Systems – 6

83 on-campus students and 17 online students.
 Overall, for the Spring 2020 to Spring 2021 period, we had 275 graduates from our masters and doctoral programs.



Calvin A. Kent Outstanding Leader Award 2021



The 2021 Calvin A. Kent Outstanding Student Leader Award recognizes a graduate student, who through his/her dedicated leadership and involvement has made significant contributions to the Brad D. Smith Graduate School of Business in a positive way during the past few years.

Dr. Cal Kent served Marshall University as Dean of the College of Business from 1993 to 2003, making him the longest serving Dean in the college's history. During his tenure as Dean, the college earned AACSB accreditation. After retiring with over 20 years of service for the college and university in various leadership roles, Cal remains involved as a Distinguished Professor of Business Emeritus and as member of the College's Executive Advisory Board. Additionally, Dr. Kent was Mayor or Chair of the City Council in three different cities including Huntington, WV. The recipient is honored to receive this award that bears his name.

The Calvin A. Kent Outstanding Graduate Student Leader of the Year Award went to **Alejandro Valladares, or Alex** as he is better known. Alex has shown strength in his abilities not only as an outstanding student, but also excelled in leadership positions as the President of the Society for Advancement of Management (SAM) Chapter at Marshall University, vice president of pledge education and chancellor of Delta Sigma Pi, and member of the Dean's Student Advisory Board- giving a voice to students. He was a finalist for the SAM National Outstanding Student. As a graduate assistant in the Dean's office, his outgoing personality and instinct to take the lead on certain projects was admirable. Alex has also been on the Dean's List, received the BB&T Emerging Leaders Certificate, an Honor's College graduate and is an active volunteer for community service projects. He helped organize a toy drive for the local hospital's children's unit through SAM. Alex has shown initiative in real life situations by finding positions that will benefit him on both an educational and experience level. He completed internships with Steel of West Virginia, MDD Forensic Accountants and Amazon. His team also created a business solution for the Physical Plant's inventory system at Marshall University under the direction and guidance of Professor Ben Eng. Upon completion of the project, his team then went on to present their solution to Marshall's Physical Plant, who implemented some of the team's suggested solutions.

More recently, he accepted a position with PricewaterhouseCoopers in Florida as an assurance associate.



Keynote Speaker: Mr. John Rulli, Chief Operating Officer of Simon Property Group, Inc.



John Rulli, a Marshall business graduate who was the captain of a Marshall championship baseball team, is the executive vice president and chief operating officer of Indianapolis-based Simon Property Group, Inc., a member of the S&P 500 and the largest U.S. publicly traded real estate company.

Simon Property Group is engaged primarily in the ownership, development and management of retail real estate, primarily regional malls, Premium Outlet centers and community/lifestyle centers. It currently owns an interest in approximately 285 properties in the U.S. and more than 55 properties in Europe, Japan and Mexico.

Mr. Rulli has been instrumental in building the operating foundation upon which Simon Property Group has grown. Prior to joining Simon, Mr. Rulli served as vice president of human resources for Merit, Inc., and before that he was director of executive human resources for Lazarus department stores, a chain headquartered in Columbus, Ohio.

Currently, Mr. Rulli is a member of the Executive Advisory Board for the Lewis College of Business and has supported several key initiatives in the Lewis College of Business such as the Business Hall of Fame and the Herd Business Webinar Series. John Rulli serves as a director on the board of Indianapolis Downtown, Inc. He chairs the fundraising campaign for the Simon Youth Foundation. Mr. Rulli is actively involved in the community, working both with religious and civic leaders to develop programs that improve the quality of life for the underprivileged.

John Rulli received his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Marshall and attended graduate school at the Ohio State University's Fawcett Center for Tomorrow. While at Marshall he served as captain of the 1978 Southern Conference championship baseball team. He also served as president of the Residence Hall Government Association and was a resident advisor.

He and his wife, Jennifer, reside in Carmel, Ind., with their four children, William, Ashley, Jonathan, and Michael.



The 2021 Spring Commissioning Ceremony of Marshall University's Army ROTC was held on April 30 at the Double Tree Hotel in Downtown Huntington. The ceremony witnessed the transition of 11 students to United States Army Officers.

Four of them are business graduates:

Jose E. Francois – MS, Accountancy

Christin C. Gerwig – MS, Human Resource Management

Fred A. Rice, Jr. – BBA, Business Administration

Alex M. Schemel – BBA, Business Administration

This year's guest speaker was Brigadier General Crane, The Adjutant General (TAG), West Virginia National Guard. The Department of Military Science – ROTC is a part of the Brad D. Smith Schools of Business.